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DOCUMENTS DIVISION

Defense Dept. Voices Support For Open Housing Legislation

Department of Defense has given strong support to a proposed federal law calling for equal opportunity on the civilian housing market.

Commanders have told DOD the Civil Rights Act of 1964 was an important factor in achieving equal opportunity in public accommodations and facilities.

There is no question that another law to cover off-base housing would be of similar value to military personnel, Defense officials testified Aug. 21 before the Senate Banking and Commerce Subcommittee on housing and urban affairs.

Testimony pointed out that two-thirds of service families in the continental U.S. must live off-base and that more progress is needed to accord 300,000 Negro servicemen—some 45,000 of them serving in Vietnam—the dignity and respect they have earned as complete equals of other men in uniform.

The Congressional group was also told of Secretary Robert S. McNamara's July 1963 statement in which he pointed out that Armed Forces members lack a civilian's freedom of choice of where to live, work or travel and that discriminatory practices are harmful to military effectiveness. "Therefore, all members of the Department of Defense should oppose such practices on every occasion while fostering equal opportunity for servicemen and their families, on and off-base," Mr. McNamara said.

The subcommittee was also given the highlights of a questionnaire still under study which documented these problem areas:

- Off base housing problem primarily affects young enlisted personnel who live in rentals and generally earn less than $7,500 a year.
- Negro families suffer the most, travelling greater distances to find off-base housing, rating dissatisfactions with size, condition, locations and schools over cost, and attributing their difficulties to racial discrimination.
- Caucasian families also suffer when discrimination exists but report cost their prime dissatisfaction.

Current talks between installation commanders, often joined by Pentagon officials, with local realtors and community leaders around the country are regarded as initially encouraging.

PLANESIDE CONFERENCE—Two top STRIKE commanders, Gen. James K. Woolnough, Commander-in-Chief, Army Strike Command (left), and Gen. Gabriel P. Disosway, Commander-in-Chief, Air Force Strike Command (center), discuss plans and procedures with Army Gen. Theodore J. Conway, Commander-in-Chief, U.S. Strike Command (right), during a visit to USSTRICOM headquarters at MacDill AFB, Fla.

DOD Seeks Congressional Revision Of Retired Family Protection Plan

Department of Defense has asked Congress to revise the Retired Servicemen's Family Protection Plan (RSFPP) to make it better understood by military personnel.

Only 15 percent of servicemen are now taking advantage of the RSFPP option to cover wives and dependents with their retirement pay in event of their deaths by accepting a lesser retirement entitlement, DOD noted in an August letter to both houses of Congress.

DOD's position is to eliminate inflexibilities of the current plan, principally to restore full retirement pay automatically when a wife dies, a child becomes ineligible because of age, or a divorce occurs.

For those with Option Four (Restoration of Full Retirement Pay) in effect, proposed legislation would also liberalize current withdrawal of the RSFPP option now permitted only with proof of severe financial hardship.

Changes also would push the election year decision to the 19th year of service, instead of the present 18th.

Washington Memos

ARMY PROVOST MARSHAL General, Maj. Gen. Carl C. Turner, has received Federal Bureau of Investigation Special Award from FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover. Gen. Turner was cited for "his valuable assistance to the FBI in his capacity as The Provost Marshal General of the United States Army."

MARINE RESERVE Brig. Gen. Douglas J. Peacher has been appointed to three-year term as member of DOD's Reserve Force Policy Board by Secretary of Defense Robert S. McNamara. Gen. Peacher succeeds Maj. Gen. Robert B. Bell, USMCR, whose term expired July 31. Reserve Forces Policy Board, acting through Assistant Secretary of Defense for Manpower, serves as principal policy advisor to Secretary of Defense on matters pertaining to Reserve Components.

PHILLIP J. STEPHENS, member of Thompson Ramo Woolridge Systems Inc., has been awarded second Air Force Commanders' Award for managerial skill in handling Minuteman intercontinental ballistic missile development. Presented by Maj. Gen. John L. McCoy, Deputy Commander for Missiles, Space and Missiles Systems Organization, award cited Stephens' "outstanding performance in a series of key assignments" during period of 1957 until 1967.

ARMY MAJ. GEN. Thomas H. Scott Jr., has taken command of 1st Logistical Command, Tan Son Nhut, RVN, relieving Maj. Gen. Shelton E. Lollis, who has been transferred to Warren, Mich., as Commanding General, Army Tank Automotive Command. Gen. Thomas came to 1st Logistical Command from position of Director of Supply, Army Materiel Command, Washington, D.C.

AIR FORCE FLIGHT Nurse Capt. Verna M. Lorette has been selected by Ladies' Auxiliary, Veterans of Foreign Wars, to receive 1967 Unsung Heroine Award. A member of 901st Aeromed Evacuation Squadron, Capt. Lorette was cited for unselfish devotion to duties and a high degree of professionalism in more than 220 aeromedical evacuation flights in which she participated during past 22 months, 74 of which were tactical missions moving patients within and out of Vietnam.

ALMOST 1.75 MILLION technical reports were distributed during FY67 to the federal research and development community, including DOD prime and sub contractors, by Defense Documentation Center, Cameron Station, Alexandria, Va. DDC is part of the Defense Supply Agency and is depository and secondary distribution point for more than 830,000 technical reports—some dating back to World War II — covering areas of scientific and technological interest to DOD.

NAVAL COMMUNICATIONS Station, Cam Ranh Bay, RVN, was formally commissioned Aug. 1. New communications center is hub of Naval communications in Vietnam and consists of center, nearby receiver and transmitter units, and message center at Navy's Coastal Surveillance Force and Naval Air Facility.

AIR FORCE 1st Lt. David S. Harrigan has been awarded dual honors for his efforts in improvement of base aircraft maintenance at Robins AFB, Ga. Lt. Harrigan was named Air Force Logistics Command's Distinguished Grade Officer of the Year, and was awarded Air Force Commendation Medal.

NAVY IS ASSISTING Philippine government in moving prefabricated schoolhouses to remote southern ports in that country. Seventh Fleet Amphibious Force ships transporting more than 1,000 two and three room schoolhouses to ports in Visayan and Mindanao Provinces.

MILITARY-CIVILIAN safety conference is scheduled at Fort Carson, Colo., Aug. 28-29. Purpose will be to stimulate interest in highway safety beyond that required by regulations and will feature talks by Colorado Gov. John A. Love and Donald S. Buck, Continental Army Command Safety Director.

NAVY'S CANDIDATE FOR Administrative Management Society's Paperwork Management Award is Capt. Forrest A. Doucette, Supply Corps officer who developed system to collect supply and financial data and summarize it in series of standard reports. He will compete against nominees from other government departments for award, won last year by another Supply Corps officer, RAdm. Ira F. Haddock.

EIGHT SPECIALLY selected commanders and lieutenant commanders from throughout Navy have begun resident phase of pilot program for Naval Command and Staff Interim Course at Naval War College, Newport, R. I. Volunteers, these officers are taking four-week resident portion of course. Total program includes tailored correspondence courses designed to completely cover core curriculum of regular Naval Command and Staff School course.

STRATEGIC AIR COMMAND'S 3rd Munitions Maintenance Sq., Andersen AFB, Guam, has won Air Force Maintenance Award for 1966. Selection for award was made from all types of maintenance units, including those handling aircraft, airborne launched missiles, ICBMs, communications equipment and motor vehicles.

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Mobile Riverine Force Effectiveness Seen as Basis for Expanded Operation

Effectiveness of Army-Navy river operations in Vietnam's Mekong Delta indicates the operation will be expanded, according to Capt. W. C. Wells, commander of River Assault Flotilla One.

Capt. Wells, in Washington, D.C., for two days to confer with planners on new boats for the flotilla, said "this innovation has tremendously increased our capability."

The operation, called Mobile Riverine Force (MRF), is composed of the 9th Division's 2nd Brigade and 1,600 men and 100 boats of the flotilla.

MRF strategy is to trap the enemy, keep him pinned, then "cut him to ribbons."

"We have had good results so far," the captain said. "From February, when the operation began, until July, the force has killed 1,177 Viet Cong while losing 75 troops and one sailor."

The MRF operates in the Mekong Delta and the Rung Sat special zone, a 450-square mile mangrove swamp south of Saigon.

The men of the 2nd Brigade go into Viet Cong infested areas aboard assault troop carriers, converted landing craft which can also carry a 105mm howitzer or an armored personnel carrier.

The troop craft are backed up by the "battleships" of the MRF. Called Monitors, these converted landing craft provide heavy fire support. Along with machine guns and an 81mm mortar, a Monitor mounts one 20mm and one 40mm gun.

Other craft are command and control boats and barges carrying 105mm and 155mm guns.

Between operations troops are billeted aboard two self-propelled barracks ships and one barrack ship that must be towed.

Nuclear Readiness Test Scheduled

Department of Defense and Atomic Energy Commission will conduct a nuclear test readiness exercise in the Pacific from mid-September to mid-October, Defense officials have announced.

Operation will be carried out by Joint Task Force Eight, the organization responsible for maintaining nation's ability to perform tests now prohibited by the limited test ban treaty.

Nuclear test simulators will be carried aloft on rockets launched from Johnston Island and dropped from B-52's. Aircraft will gather information on the simulated nuclear effects.

Test is similar to the one conducted in October 1966 and is designed to maintain the proficiency of personnel and keep facilities and resources in a "state of readiness" should nuclear tests in the atmosphere ever be required.

RIVER PATROL—U.S. Deputy Ambassador to South Vietnam, Eugene M. Locke (center), listens while Navy Capt. Paul N. Gray (left) explains disposition of his river patrol forces in the Mekong Delta. With Mr. Locke during his visit to the Navy's "Game Warden" operations on the Bassac River 70 miles southwest of Saigon was RAdm. Kenneth L. Veth, Comander, U.S. Naval Forces, Vietnam.

Two Marine Officer Selection Boards Receive Increased Promotion Quotas

Marine Corps selection boards meeting this month and next will pick 462 more lieutenant colonels and about 250 more majors than originally planned, Marine Corps officials have announced.

Increases were authorized by Secretary of the Navy under a temporary promotion law because of Marine Corps' requirement for more field grade officers.

Marine Corps officials said because of the buildup since 1965, many officers are filling billets normally held by officers senior to them.

The increased promotions will bring the total selected to 802 lieutenant colonels and about 1,040 majors.

Officials said officers promoted under the temporary law will be considered for reselection under permanent promotion laws when they reach normal eligibility.

Army Reduces Expanded OCS Operation

Army has announced it will reduce its expanded Officer Candidate School (OCS) program after the present training cycles are completed.

OCS operations are to be discontinued at Fort Gordon, Ga.; Fort Knox, Ky.; Fort Lee and Fort Eustis in Virginia and Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md. After Aug. 19, OCS candidates will be assigned to classes only at Fort Benning, Ga., Fort Sill, Okla., and Fort Belvoir, Va.

Under the expanded program, Army commissioned more than 19,000 officers in fiscal year 1967. This was more than five times the number commissioned in fiscal year 1966.

Now, Army says the reduced program can supply enough officers for "programmed objectives."

SIGHTING IN—The pilot of an Army "Shark" helicopter sights in on the Viet Cong, prior to unleashing air rocket artillery in support of ground troops of the 3rd Brigade, 27th Infantry Div., near Duc Pho, Vietnam. The Shark is one of the gunships of the 174th Aviation Company.

Army Staff Sergeant Wins Posthumous Award Of Medal of Honor

The Medal of Honor has been presented posthumously to Staff Sergeant Jimmy G. Stewart for heroic action near An Khe, Republic of Vietnam, May 18, 1966, where he gave his life protecting five wounded comrades.

Secretary of the Army Stanley Resor presented the Medal to Sgt. Stewart's widow, Mrs. Gertraud H. Stewart of Columbus, Ga. Also attending the Pentagon presentation was his mother, Mrs. Ethel M. Stitt of Racine, Ohio.

During the May 18 incident, Sgt. Stewart was the only man in his squad not wounded and he refused to withdraw. He was killed after holding his position for four hours in the face of three assaults by a Viet Cong platoon.

At the time of his heroic act, Sgt. Stewart was a member of Co. B, 2d Bn., 12th Cav., 1st Cav. Div. (Airmobile).

Modification to C-123 Improves Safety Payload

By the end of this year, the 315th Air Commando Wing, Tan Son Nhut, Republic of Vietnam, is expected to have 64 modified C-123 assault transport aircraft equipped with two jet engine pods. The first C-123K is already providing increased airlift in RVN.

The modification involves installation of two J-85 engine pods, in addition to the two standard piston engines. This results in increased take-off power.

The new model can now airlift a full payload of 60 fully equipped troops or 24,000 pounds of cargo from landing zones in RVN that were previously restricted.

Increased power of the C-123K also provides an added safety margin when taking off over such obstacles as trees and villages which are prevalent around many of the forward operating airstrips in RVN.

Vietnam Air Ace Named Commandant of Cadets At Air Force Academy

America's top Vietnam air ace, Col. Robin Olds, will become Commandant of Cadets at the Air Force Academy, Lt. Gen. Thomas S. Moorman, academy superintendent, announced Aug. 18.

Col. Olds will replace Brig. Gen. Louis T. Seith at the Colorado-based academy Dec. 1. Gen. Seith, who has commanded the 3200-man Cadet Wing since July 1965, has been named Chief of Staff, Seventh Air Force, Vietnam.

Credited with four MIG kills while Commander, Eighth Tactical Fighter Wing, in Thailand, Col. Olds is a 1943 graduate of the U.S. Military Academy. He was a World War II fighter ace, credited with destroying 23½ aircraft while flying 107 fighter missions in the European theatre.

Gen. Seith is also a 1943 graduate of the Military Academy. He served as a B-17 bomber pilot in World War II. Prior assignments at the Air Force Academy include Operations and Training Officer and Deputy Commandant of Cadets.

First Cavalry Div. to Get Presidential Unit Citation

President Johnson will present the Presidential Unit citation to the 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile) Sept. 14 at the White House.

The 1st Cavalry, first division-sized unit in Vietnam to receive the award, is being cited for its operations from Oct. 23 to Nov. 26, 1965, a period that included both combat and civic action.

While engaged in combat, the division evacuated 3,330 refugees from the battle areas, supplied nearly 16 tons of food and two tons of clothing and medical supplies for the refugees, and, along with giving medical treatment to 450 Vietnamese, contributed more than $2,600 to build a school and make improvements on a Vietnamese dispensary.

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